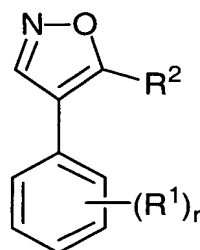


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. Canceled.

10. (Original) A compound of formula (VI):



(VI);

wherein:

r is an integer from 0 to 4;

R^1 is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl, -NR^{1c}R^{1d}, -OR^{1e}, and -SR^{1e};

R^{1c} and R^{1d} are independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl and C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl;

alternatively, R^{1c} and R^{1d} are taken together to form a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of:

piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine and thiomorpholine, each heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1-3 C₁-C₄ alkyl groups;

R^{1e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, and C₄-C₆ cycloalkylalkyl;

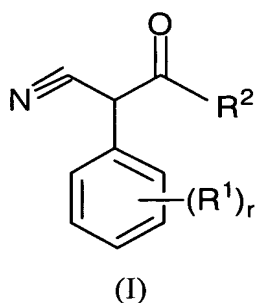
R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:

H, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₀ cycloalkylalkyl, C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, and C₁-C₄ alkyl substituted with 0-5 R^{2a} ;

R^{2a} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl, halo, CN, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, -OR^{2e}, and -SR^{2e}; and R^{2e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:
H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, and C₄-C₆ cycloalkylalkyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

r is an integer from 0 to 4;

R¹ is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl, -NR^{1c}R^{1d}, -OR^{1e}, and -SR^{1e};

R^{1c} and R^{1d} are independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl and C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl;

alternatively, R^{1c} and R^{1d} are taken together to form a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of:

piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine and thiomorpholine, each heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1-3 C₁-C₄ alkyl groups;

R^{1e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, and C₄-C₆ cycloalkylalkyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of:

H, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₀ cycloalkylalkyl, C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, and C₁-C₄ alkyl substituted with 0-5 R^{2a};

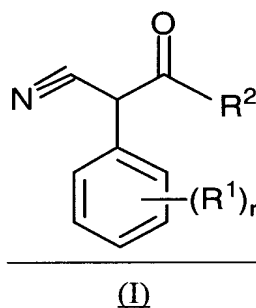
R^{2a} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl, halo, CN, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, -OR^{2e}, and -SR^{2e}; and R^{2e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, and C₄-C₆ cycloalkylalkyl;

provided that the compound is other than 3-oxo-2-phenyl-butyronitrile, 2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-3-oxo-butyronitrile, or 5-methyl-3-oxo-2-meta-tolyl-hexanenitrile.

12. (New) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

r is 2, 3 or 4;

R¹ is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl, -NR^{1c}R^{1d}, -OR^{1e}, and -SR^{1e};

R^{1c} and R^{1d} are independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl and C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl;

alternatively, R^{1c} and R^{1d} are taken together to form a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of:

piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, N-methylpiperazine, morpholine and thiomorpholine, each heterocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1-3 C₁-C₄ alkyl groups;

R^{1e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, and C₄-C₆ cycloalkylalkyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of:

H, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₀ cycloalkylalkyl, C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, and C₁-C₄ alkyl substituted with 0-5 R^{2a};

R^{2a} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkylalkyl, halo, CN, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, -OR^{2e}, and -SR^{2e}; and

R^{2e} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of:

H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, and C₄-C₆ cycloalkylalkyl.